Western Washington Amateur Relay Association

The Coordinator

Election

Current Chairman

Jon Marcinko

Current ViceChair

Clay Freinwald

Current Secretary

Mark McClain

Current Board #1

Ed Bruette

Vacated Board #3

Pete Kruml

WWARA Officers and Board Members up for Election

The positions of Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary/Treasureer and Board Positions 1 & 3 will be elected December 2, 2000.

MULTI-USE RADIO SERVICE

Readers have expressed a lot of interest in the new Multi-Use Radio Service or MURS. Some wanted to know how this new CB service which permits unlicensed VHF 2-watt (150-MHz) operation came into being since practically no one knew it was coming or were given the opportunity to comment on the rulemaking.

Actually MURS went through more than 2 years of intensive rulemaking. And the concept actually started some 5 years ago when frequencies were allocated for low power use in the Business Radio Service (1995 "Refarming" Report and Order.) The issue of an unlicensed non-coordinated radio service was later incorporated into the 1998 Biennial Regulatory Review of the (Part 90) Private Land Mobile Radio Services (PLMRS).

It escaped most radio enthusiasts since it was Business Band and not CB or Amateur Radio oriented. They shouldn't feel bad, however, since most radio equipment manufacturers were also blind-sided by MURS. And it may not be too long before you see ICOM, Kenwood, Yaesu and Alinco MURS hand herds in hobby radio stores. Motorola and Radio Shack were well aware of the proceeding, however.

Remember that when CB started in the 1950's, its objective was to allow businesses to have a way to communicate between their main office and their on-the-road service vehicles. It was very high tech and fashionable back then to have a "radio controlled" sign splashed on the side of the truck.

MURS has a similar goal. The idea is for construction workers and other service personnel to have a way to communicate short range among themselves. Actually most users never bothered with the licensing function. They just bought and used the radios.

In WT Docket No. 97-153 - the so-called Part 90 Omnibus NPRM — (Adopted January 28, 1999, Released February 19, 1999) the FCC exempted five Part 90 frequencies from the frequency coordination requirement of °90.175 of the Rules.

Two of the frequencies, 154.570 MHz and 154.600 MHz, were commonly referred to as "color dot" frequencies in the PLMR community. The 154.570 MHz radio was frequently identified with a blue dot, 154.600 MHz) had a red dot. These entry-level, low power hand-held NBFM radios were extremely popular because of their lo\ cost. The other three coordination exempted frequencies are 151.820 MHz, 151.880 MHz, and 151.940 MHz.

The Notice of Proposed Rulemaking

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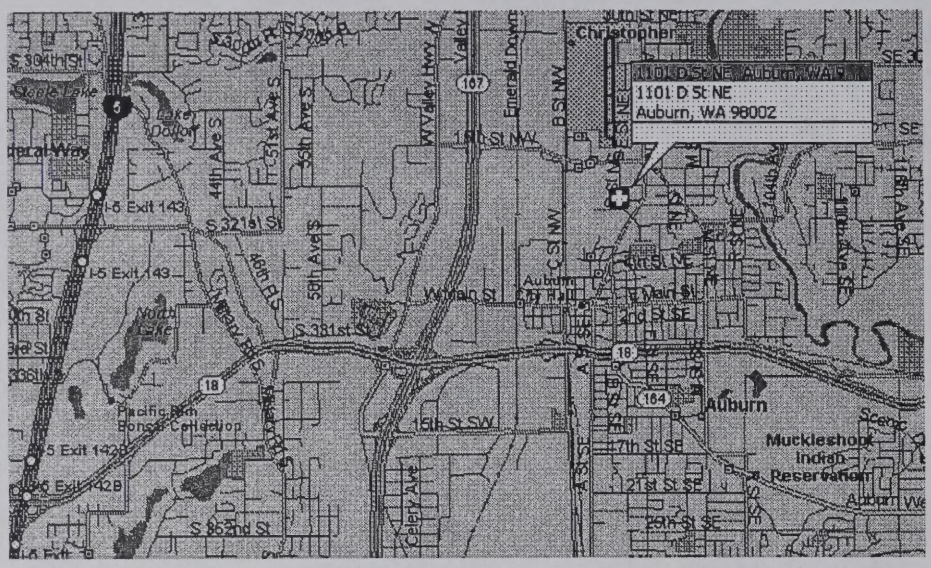
Meeting Notice....

The next WWARA Membership meeting will be December 2, 2000 at 10:00 AM at the Auburn Fire Station at 1011 D Street NE, Auburn, WA.

For some time the WWARA has been meeting at the Seattle Times printing facility in Bothel. Unfortunately this facility is not available for our next meeting. Therefor the change in location. The Board is working on a new location that will be along the I-5 coridor and be convienient to all.



DRIVING INSTRUCTIONS -

From the North -

- From I-5, go NORTH on 450 and then
- Go SOUTH on the Valley Freeway (SR-167), south of Kent.
- Exit at 15th St. N.W. Same Exit as Emerald Downs.
- Go EAST (Turn LEFT) on 15th St NW
- Just past the entrance for Emerald Downs, look for a row of fast food places on the right.
- Just past the Jack in the Box, turn RIGHT on 'D'Street.
- The fire department is on the RIGHT about 1 block South on D Street.
- There is plenty of parking across the street.

From the South...

- North of Tacoma on I-5 take the SR-18 Exit (Marked Auburn-North Bend)
- Go East on SR-18, down the hill.
- At the bottom of the hill, exit to the Right to SR-167 NORTHBOUND.
- Go North on SR-167 (the Valley Freeway) and Exit at 15th NW.
- At the end of the 15th NW Ramp, TURN RIGHT and follow the directions above.

Need further directions?

Call Clay Freinwald, K7CR on his cell phone 206-947-6115

MURS Continued

The objective of WT Docket No. 98-182 (a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking) was to complete a comprehensive review of the PLMR (business band) Service and to revise various procedures and policies. One of the things the FCC wanted to know was whether they should go ahead with a utilitarian unlicensed VHF radio service.

The September 1998 NPRM stated "These five frequencies are licensed as mobile frequencies and the station license, therefore, does not contain station coordinates. We stated that frequency coordination for these frequencies no longer serves a regulatory purpose, partic ularly given that the frequency coordinator does not know the precise location of the user. Thus, the combination of two circumstances: (1) the existence of our current proposal to eliminate the coordination requirement for these frequencies; and (2) the claim that most users of these frequencies probably are not licensed, cause us now to invite comments on whether these five frequencies should be further deregulated by eliminating the requirement that they be licensed.

"Should we decide to take this action, we would real locate the frequencies from Part 90 to a radio service that does not require licensing, such as the Citizens Band, Low Power Radio, or the Family Radio Service.

"We invite comments on the effect such a reallocation would have on existing Part 90 licensees of these frequencies. We also invite comments on whether there are other frequencies in Part 90 for which we could eliminate the licensing requirement."

The Report and Order

The Report and Order on WT Docket No. 98-182 was adopted on June 28, 2000 (released: July 12, 2000.) The R&O basically adopted the changes that were proposed in the September 1998 Part 90 NPRM including the reassignment of the five low power VHF frequencies identified in the Notice from the Part 90 Private Land Mobile Radio (PLMR) Services to the Part 95 Citizens Band Radio Service, and elimination of the licensing requirement for these frequencies.

The FCC said in the Order that "Traditionally, the PLMR services have provided for the private, internal communications needs of public safety entities, state and local government entities, large and small businesses, transportation providers, the medical community, and other diverse us-

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Clay's Corner

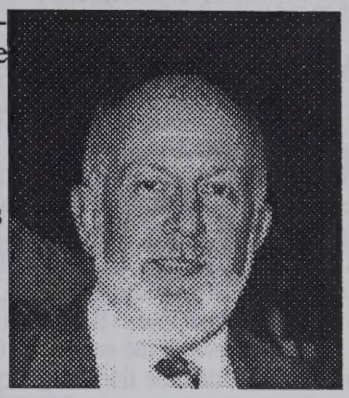
Nov/Dec 2000

The next meeting of the WWARA is election time. Over the years you have heard me say that its vital that you show up for our annual first Saturday in December gathering to make sure that your voices and positions are represented in the results of this balloting. Well this time consider my plea as being a bit louder and more emphatic.

The WWARA in its August meeting voted to change the way coordination matters are dealt with here in our area. In many respects the organization has agreed to re-invent itself. What I am here to tell you is that this process is only partially completed. The next step is to elect officers that are committed to carry out your wishes. Its time that you vote, not just for the familiar face, but for the person who has the drive and commitment that's needed. In years past the leadership of the WWARA has resembled a revolving door or perhaps a game of 'musical-chairs'. Well this time the number of chairs are the same but many of the 'players' have seen fit to move on to other activities.

How does this involve you? It means that when the music stops at the next meeting there are going to be chairs to be filled....and who fills them is YOUR CHOICE! Watching this process this year has shown that the WWARA is made up of approximately three different kinds of people...1)Those that were embracing the changes we have made. 2) Those that are opposed to these changes (some of whom have elected to no longer participate in leadership positions) and 3) Those that don't care either way.

So where is the organization going to come up with the leaders for 2001? First of all from Category 3. This means those of you that have been reading the Coordinator and my comments but have usually found something better to do than come to an Association meeting and participate.... AND from the ranks of Amateur Radio in general. Remember that the WWARA is no longer an organization whose leadership must come from those that have been 'blessed' by the receipt of a Certificate of Coordination. ALL AMATEURS can and should participate in this process. This is one of the cornerstones of the changes we voted in last August. As I said earlier, the WWARA needs leaders that are committed to moving this organization forward and in this process it needs YOU.



Clay Freinwald - K7CR

I sincerely hope that you will be at our next meeting as your participation is not just a good thing...its critical to insure that the work of the past can be deemed worth it. If you have thought that you'd like to participate in helping lead this organization, come and make your desire known. If you know a person that you feel could contribute, encourage them to come, better yet, bring them yourself. For the first time those that are called 'Board Members' have an active role in the day to day operation of the Association. Two new Board Members will be elected. Even if you don't feel that you are up to one of the 'top-jobs' here is your opportunity to get your feet wet. If you have had a system coordinated by the WWARA in the past...its time that you thought of the future and did your part to not only protect what we have achieved but to insure that the future is even better for all of Amateur Radio. Will I see you at the next meeting?

Thanks...

Clay

Email, email, more email.....

Just when I thought I had a good handle on my email inbox, I'm about to ask for more!! I have been overhauling the WWARA Access database and adding some new features, like automatically cranking out renewal notices, and some other semi-automated information. During the overhaul process, I began to notice that the database doesn't really contain many email addresses for the system trustees and general members. So I would like to ask that EVERYONE send my your current email address. Please send it to: , and put "Email Address" as the Subject.

Thank for the support..... Mark McClain, N6OBY, Secretary/Treasurer

The Coordinator

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The WWARA acknowledges and thanks World Radio, ARRL, FCC, Newsline, HamRadio Online and W5YI for allowing us to reprint some of their articles. Visit the WWARA's web site at http://www.wwara.org

ers of two-way radio systems." There was no mention of personal or hobby radio.

Another quote from the Order: "In the Notice, we invited comments on whether five "color-dot" frequencies should be reallocated from the Part 90 Private Land Mobile Radio Services to one of the Citizens Band Radio (CB) Services in Part 95 (such as the Low Power Radio Service, LPRS).

The Multi-Use Radio Service is born

"After reviewing the record," FCC said, "we conclude that the licensing requirement for the five low power VHF frequencies identified in the Notice should be eliminated and these frequencies reallocated from Part 90 to one of the CB services in Part 95. All comments support our proposal. We agree with the commenters that because of the manner in which manufacturers have chosen to market radios that operate on these frequencies and our elimination of the frequency coordination requirements on the low power frequencies, it would be in the public interest to eliminate the licensing requirement for them.

"Two of the three existing CB services, CB Radio and Family Radio, only allow voice communications. The third, LPRS (Low Power Radio Service), prohibits twoway voice communications. The color-dot frequencies, on the other hand, are intended for voice, data, and imaging. Therefore, we are following the suggestion of Motorola and Tandy (Radio Shack) by placing these frequencies in a new radio service category in the CB services, to be called the Multi-Use Radio Service (MURS).

"For consistency and ease of use and administration, we will also allow 2 watt operation on all of the frequencies, including those for which operation only at 1 watt is currently permitted."

Motorola wanted four additional UHF frequencies (467.850 MHz, 467.875 MHz, 467.900 MHz and 467.925 MHz) relocated to unlicensed low power use. Motorola said "These four frequencies have been serving low-tier business needs for several decades." And Tandy/Radio Shack requested four more 150-MHz frequencies be added to the list which it said "...are already commonly included on currently available business band radios."

Business band user groups generally opposed further expansion beyond the five channels adding that this reallocation "...should not serve as a precedent for turning other PLMR spectrum into unlicensed spectrum" and "...further erosion of critical

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Coorespondence Log

09/02/2000	Email to Armand Noble
09/04/2000	Email to Ralph Lucier- KA7VEE
09/05/2000	Email from/to Armand Noble
09/09/2000	Email from Vic Gavron- AA5IR
09/10/2000	TD's and CF's from Adrian Jones- KC7IYE
09/11/2000	Email from Bill Rourke- W7ERH
09/14/2000	Email to Vic Gavron- AA5IR
09/15/2000	Email to Bill Rourke- W7ERH
09/16/2000	Email from Dick Morrison- K7KFM
09/19/2000	TD's and CF's from Dick Morrison- K7KFM
	Email to Dick Morrison- K7KFM
09/21/2000	Email from Bob Dewey- N7OH
09/27/2000	Email from Ralph Lucier- KA7VEE
09/28/2000	Email from Dave Tyler- N7DRT
	Email to Ralph Lucier- KA7VEE
10/03/2000	TD's and Fees from Ralph Lucier- KA7VEE
	Email to Ralph Lucier- KA7VEE
	Email from Dave Tyler- N7DRT
10/04/2000	Email from/to John Mackey
	Email from Pete Policani- K7PP
10/05/2000	Dues from Robert Wormley- W7QA
	Dues from Acadmy Amateur Radio Club- K7SYE
	Email to Pete Policani- K7PP
	$3 cash for RD from Keith Carlin- N7ACW
	$3 cash for RD from Ralph Lucier- KA7VEE
	$3 cash for RD from Marty Hadfield- WB7AFV
	$15 cash for CF from Ralph Lucier- KA7VEE
10/08/2000	Online renewal from Glen Kristensen- K7NWS
	Email from/to Monte Mueller- W7GVJ
10/09/2000	Email from Pete Kruml- N7KFJ
	Email from Monte Mueller- W7GVJ
	Email from/to Carl Di Paolo- W7EXH
10/15/2000	Email from Ralph Lucier- KA7VEE
10/16/2000	Email from Jim Boora- KD7FBT
	Email to Ralph Lucier- KA7VEE
10/17/2000	Email from/to Bruce Klanke- K7IDX
	Email to Jim Boora- KD7FBT
	Email to Ron Ohnhaus- K0BQ
10/18/2000	Dues, CF, and TD from Robert Haselberg- K7MXE
	RF from Glen Kristensen- K7NWS
10/21/2000	Email from Randy Stegemeyer- W7HR
10/24/2000	Check for RD's from Grays Harbor ARC/Jim Boora- KD7FBT
10/27/2000	Dues from Mike Olds- WA7ZUS
10/30/2000	Email to Jim Boora- KD7FBT

* RD= Repeater Directory *TD= Technical Data Sheet
* CF= Coordination Fee *RF= Renewal Fee

MURS Continued

PLMR spectrum must be avoided in the future."

The Commission acknowledged the differing views and decided there was not sufficient support to justify reallocation of additional Part 90 frequencies at this time. But the FCC could expand MURS if it proves popular. It said "We may revisit this issue at a later date should additional support develop." Only the five frequencies listed in the original proposal are included in the new Multi-Use Radio Service (MURS.)

The 150.8 to 152 MHz band, which previously was allocated only to Part 90 PLM use was expanded to include Personal Radio use under Part 95.

New Part 95 PERSONAL RADIO SERVICES Rules

...take effect 30 days after publishing in the Federal Register which is expected this month (October 2000) At that time, the Part 95 Rules will be amended as follows:

95.401 (CB Rule 1) What are the Citizens Band Radio Services? (e) The Multi-Use Radio Service (MURS)—a private, two-way, short-distance voice, data or image communications service for personal or business activities of the general public.

95.601 Basis and purpose. Subpart J - Multi-Use Radio Service (MURS)

95.603 Certification required. (g) Each Muiti-Use Radio Service transmitter (a transmitter that operates or is intended to operate in the MURS) must be certificated in accordance with °90.203 of this chapter.

95.605 Certification procedures. Any entity may request certification for its transmitter when the transmitter is used in the GMRS, FRS, R/C, CB, IVDS, LPRS, MURS, or MICS following the procedures in part 2 of this chapter.

95.631 Emission types. (i) A MURS station may transmit any emission type as specified in °90.207 of this Chapter.

95.632 MURS transmitter frequencies. (a) The MURS transmitter channel frequencies are 151.820 MHz, 151.880 MHz, 151.940 MHz, 154.570 MHz, 154.600 MHz. (b) The authorized bandwidth is 11.25 kHz on frequencies 151.820 MHz, 151.880 MHz and 151.940 MHz. The authorized bandwidth is 12.5 kHz on frequencies 154.570 and 154.600 kHz. 30. (c) MURS transmitters must maintain a frequency stability of 5.0 ppm, or 2.0 ppm if designed to operate with a 6.25 kHz bandwidth.

95.633 Emission bandwidth. (f) The authorized bandwidth for any emission type transmitted by a MURS transmitter is specified in °90.209 of this Chapter.

95.635 Unwanted radiation. (e) For transmitters designed to operate in the MURS, transmitters shall comply with °90.210 of this chapter.

95.639 Maximum transmitter power.

(9) No MURS unit, under any condition of modulation, shall exceed 2 W effective radiated power (ERP).

95.649 Power capability

No CB, R/C, LPRS, FRS, MICS, MURS or WMTS unit shall incorporate provisions for increasing its transmitter power to any level in excess of the limits specified in °95.639.

95.651 Crystal control required.

All transmitters used in the Personal Radio Services must be crystal controlled, except an R/C station that transmits in the 26-27 MHz frequency band, a FRS unit, a LPRS unit, a MURS unit, a MICS transmitter, or a WMTS unit.

95.1301 Eligibility.

An entity is authorized by rule to operate a MURS transmitter if it is not a foreign government or a representative of a foreign government and if it uses the transmitter in accordance with 95.1109 and otherwise operates in accordance with the rules contained in this subpart. No license will be issued.

95.1303 Authorized locations.

(a) MURS operation is authorized:

(1) Anywhere CB station operation is permitted under °95.405; and

(2) Aboard any vessel of the United States, with the permission of the captain, while the vessel is traveling either domestically or in international waters.

(b) MURS operation is not authorized aboard aircraft in flight.

(c) Anyone intending to operate a MURS unit on the islands of Puerto Rico, Desecheo, Mona, Vieques, and Culebra in a manner that could pose an interference threat to the Arecibo Observatory. ..

95.1305 Station identification.

A MURS station is not required to transmit a station identification announcement.

95.1307 Permissible communications.

(a) MURS stations may transmit voice, data or image signals as permitted in this subpart.

(b) A MURS station may transmit any emission type, subject to the limitations contained in °90.207 of this Chapter.

(c) MURS frequencies may be used for remote control and telemetering functions. Emission types A1 D, A2D, F1 D, F2D are authorized and stations used to control remote objects or devices may be operated on the continuous carrier transmit mode, except on frequency 154.600 MHz.

°95.1309 Channel use policy.

(a) The channels authorized to MURS systems by this part are available on a shared basis only and will not be assigned for the exclusive use of any entity.

(b) Those using MURS transmitters must cooperate in the selection and use of channels in order to reduce interference and make the most effective use of authorized facilities. Channels must be selected in an effort to avoid interference to other MURS transmissions.

NFCC Elects New Officers

NFCC elects officers: The National Frequency Coordinators' Council has elected its officers for the September 2000 through August 2001 term. Elected were: NFCC President, Owen Wormser, K6LEW; NFCC Vice President, Nels Harvey, WA9JOB; NFCC Secretary, Dick Isely, W9GIG; NFCC Treasurer, Dave Baughn, KX4I; NFC Board Chairman, Owen Wormser, K6LEW; NFC Board Vice Chairman, Nels Harvey, WA9JOB.—NFCC

Western Washington Amateur Relay Association
16541 Redmond Way – PMB 243, Redmond, WA. 98052-4482

PAYMENT FORM

My enclosed check is for: Check # _____
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_____ Rptr Directories @ $6 each for members ($8.95 each for non-members)

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Addr: _____ Freq: _____
City: _____ ST: _____ ZIP: _____
Home #: _____ Work #: _____
Email: _____

Admin use: CL: _____ DB: _____ QB: _____ RD: _____ TN: _____

"Interception Capabilities 2000"

Communications intelligence (Comint) is information derived from foreign communications by other than the intended recipient. In other words covert surveillance or spying The report says that Comint has become a largescale industrial activity employing many workers who sift through high capacity civil telecommunications systems using high degrees of automation.

The traditional targets have been military messages and diplomatic communications between foreign countries Also targeted, following the growth of world trade, is economic intelligence about technical and scientific developments. More recent targets include narcotics trafficking, money laundering, terrorism and organized crime.

The UKUSA agreement

The United States Sigint (Signal Intelligence) unit consists of the NSA (National Security Agency), the Central Security Service (military support units) and parts of the CIA (Central Intelligence Agency.) Following wartime collaboration, the UK and the US made a secret agreement in 1947 to continue to conduct collaborative global Comint activities. Canada, Australia and New Zealand later joined the UKUSA alliance.

The existence of the UKUSA agreement was not acknowledged until 1999 when the Australian government let the cat out of the bag by divulging that its Defense Signals Directorate (DSD) cooperated with counterpart sigsignals intelligence agencies overseas under the UKUSA relationship.

Besides UKUSA, there are at least 30 other nations

intercepting sensitive information. The largest is the Russian FAPSI with 54,000 employees. China has a "substantial" Sigint system, two stations of which are directed at Russia and operate in collaboration with the United States. Most Middle Eastern and Asian nations - in particular Israel, India and Pakistan - have large communications intelligence agencies.

Collection, processing, production and dissemination

Communications intelligence collection includes acquiring the intercepted information and passing the data downstream to human analysts, who may be a continent away, for processing and production. Processing is the conversion of the collected information into a form suitable for analysis. Production involves the evaluation and interpretation of raw intercepted data info finished intelligence. Dissemination is the passing of the decrypted or translated intelligence to the appropriate party.

Once targets have been selected, the collection process is determined based on the type of information required, the susceptibility of the targeted activity to collection and the likelihood of collection. This task was simple years ago when refracted long range (HF) radio communications were easily intercepted. From 1940 to 1980, both NSA and the GCHQ (Government Communications Headquarters, its British counterpart) operated HF radio interception.

Today's modern communications systems, however, require unusual, expensive or intrusive methods to gain access. For example, inter-city microwave radio-relay systems, international satellite links and fiber optic subsea cables carry mixed television, telephone, fax, data links, private voice and data. They are all monitored.

Intelligence data including telemetry, VHF/UHF radio, cellular mobile phones, paging signals, mobile data and microwave radio are collected by Comint satellites which cost around $1 billion each. "...the United States can if it chooses, direct space collection systems to intercept mobile communications signals and microwave city-to-city traffic, anywhere on the planet." While no other nation has the sophisticated satellite intelligence collection capability of the United States, some other nations do have Comint satellites. For example, Russia's FAPSI operates a large ground collection site in Cuba and Vietnam.

Communications from undersea cables can be "tapped" by wrapping coils around the cable using remotely controlled drones. "The United States is the only naval power known to have deployed deep-sea technology for this purpose." Optical fiber cables do not leak RF signals and cannot be tapped using inductive loops. "USA and other Comint agencies have spent a great deal of money on research into tapping optical fibers, reportedly with little success."Intercepting the Internet

Since 1990, almost all communications have been high-capacity digital. The highest capacity systems in general use for the Internet operate at a data rate of 155 MBs - the equivalent of sending 3 million words every

second.

The dramatic growth in the size and significance of the Internet does not really pose a challenge for intelligence agencies. "Since the early 1990's, fast and sophisticated Comint systems have been developed to collect, filter and analyze the forms of fast digital communications used by the Internet."

Most of the world's Internet capacity lies within or connects to the United States. Thus a large proportion of international Internet communications passes through the

U.S. and is readily accessible to NSA. Internet packets are inherently easy to identify as to sender, recipient and country since they include numbers representing both their site origin and destination, called "IP addresses."

"Unless special warrants are issued, NSA is normally legally restricted to looking only at communications that start or finish in a foreign country." NSA employs "bots" (robots) to collect non-verbal data of interest. This global surveillance system run by the military-intelligence community is code-named ECHELON.

The system attempts to capture staggering volumes of satellite, microwave, private phone calls, Internet, cellular, fax, telex and fiber-optic traffic, including communications to and from North America. This vast quantity of voice and data communications are then processed through sophisticated filtering technologies. including "voiceprint" speaker identification and optical character recognition systems, which look for code words or phrases

New evidence shows that this computer "sifting" of intercepted communications has existed for more than 20 years. The need for such a system became apparent when the quantity of messages intercepted far outstripped NSA and CIA capability to examine them.

According to a former employee, NSA had by 1995 installed "packet sniffer" software to collect foreign Internet intelligence traffic including e-mail, file transfers and "virtual private networks" operated over the Internet.

The key component of the system are "Dictionary" computers which store information on specified targets. They pick out key words and hunt out hundreds of individuals and corporations. Their presence has been confirmed in Canada, Australia, New Zealand and England. The U.S. operates ECHELON sites at Sugar Grove, WV (250 miles southwest of Washington in a remote area of the Shenandoah Mountains) and at Sabana Seca, Puerto Rico.

A conversation or document which matches a dictionary entry is flagged by the system and then automatically forwarded to the respective inteligence agency headquarters that requested the communication.

Receiving information from these systems is similar to using a search engine which select web pages containing key words or terms. The forwarding function of the "Dictionary" can be compared to e-mail.

Where access to signals is not possible, Comint agencies have constructed special purpose interception equipment in foreign embassies and other diplomatic premises. A joint NSA/CIA "Special Collection Service" manufactures equipment and trains personnel for covert collection.

The intelligence community is very concerned about the difficulty of future information gathering. The shift in telecommunications to high capacity optical fiber networks requires access to the cables for interception. And the war against readable commercially-available cryptography appears lost. [Published by the European Parliament Directorate Genera/ for Research, Luxembourg.]

ECHELON is indeed the most powerful intelligence gathering tool in the world. It gathers "billions of messages per hour." There is no question that it is a formidable means for fighting corruption, organized crime and terrorism. The United States government has gone to extreme lengths to keep ECHELON a secret. To this day, they refuse to admit that ECHELON even exists.

The release of the STOA report sparked a firestorm

of controversy in Europe! The European Parliament said it believed the American-led ECHELON posed a threat to privacy and civil liberties. It further believes the need to protect national security is not ECHELON's only concern and that industrial espionage has become a part of ECHELON's activities.

The French government has launched an official investigation into the possibility that information has been

given to American companies in an attempt to gain an advantage over rival firms. And both the Italian and Danish governments have begun separate investigations of Echelon's intelligence-gathering efforts.

Wiretapping under Title 18 of the criminal code can only be accomplished under court order. ECHELON may involve the interception of communications involving Americans in the United States without a court order. The American Civil Liberties Union has asked Congress to hold a hearing on ECHELON.

The massive surveillance system operates with little oversight and members of the House Select Committeeon Intelligence want to know the legal basis for NSA's ECHELON activities. In particular, the Committee wants to know if the communications of Americans were being intercepted and under what authority.

FORMER CALIFORNIA HAM AGREES TO JAIL FOR UNLICENSED OPERATION

Former amateur Richard Allen Burton reportedly has agreed to serve three months in jail for Communications Act violations, pending pre-sentencing and medical reports. Burton, who has a long history of alleged unlicensed operation, was arrested August 5 after his indictment in May by a grand jury for the US District Court for the Central District of California. Sentencing will be in February.

Formerly WB6JAC, Burton faced six felony counts of violating the Communications Act of 1934. The FCC says he operated without a license on repeaters in Southern California after his license was cancelled.

Burton's General ticket was revoked in 1981. The following year, he was convicted on four counts of transmitting without a license and two counts of transmitting "obscene, indecent or profane words, language or meaning." Burton initially was sentenced to serve six months of an eight year prison term, with the remainder suspended. Upon appeal, the US Ninth District Court of Appeals upheld the unlicensed operation conviction but threw out his obscenity conviction. The FCC says that Burton transmitted without a license while on probation in 1984 and again in 1990 and in 1992. After the second incident, he was fined $2000 and received a year's probation; after the third, he was sentenced to seven months in jail and a year's probation.

In 1992, Burton attempted to get his Amateur Radio license back, but the FCC refused to reinstate him. He was briefly successful in getting a ham ticket in 1996, when he passed a Technician exam at a VE session. The FCC granted Burton a new license and the call sign KF6GKS, which was promptly set aside as soon as the Commission realized its error.

Burton has been free on $20,000 bond. He pleaded not guilty at his arraignment. A trial was postponed while the plea agreement was being worked out.

FCC TO MONITOR AUCTION SITE FOR ILLEGAL ITEMS

The FCC says it has reached an agreement with the eBay auction site that's aimed at curtailing the sale of clearly illegal radio equipment.

FCC Special Counsel for Amateur Radio Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth says eBay has agreed to cooperate in removing advertisements in which the item for sale "is clearly non-certified" under FCC rules. Hollingsworth said most of the equipment involved falls into the CB category, including illegal amplifiers.

Hollingsworth agreed to publicize the initiative at the urging of the ARRL Regulatory Information Branch's John Hennessee, N1KB."I've got a whole folder of people who have been complaining about this and will be delighted to know that the Commission is taking action," Hennessee said.

Hollingsworth said a review team within the Technical and Public Safety Division of the FCC Enforcement Bureau is screening eBay ads each week. He said the practice could be extended to other auction sites if the FCC learns of similar problems.

Hollingsworth credits complaints from the Amateur Radio community with getting the new system in place. "I've been collecting complaints for a year, but the amateur community really generated it," he said. Hollingsworth says he sees about 10 complaints a week about auction site radio gear advertisements—sometimes several about the same ad. He cautions that complaints should be based on clear-cut FCC rules violations, such as attempts to sell illegal linear amplifiers.

Amateurs can send items to fccham@fcc.gov, Hollingsworth said.

FCC CUTS DEAL IN TEXAS AMATEUR INTERFERENCE CASE

A Texas amateur facing an $8000 fine in a malicious interference case instead will give up his Amateur Radio license for five years and make a voluntary contribution to the US Treasury. In exchange, the FCC will drop the fine. The FCC this week adopted a consent decree terminating the forfeiture proceeding against Technician licensee Robert L. Meyers, N5WLY.

Last spring, the FCC affirmed $8000 fines levied on Meyers and General licensee Paul E. Holcombe, K4TOF, both of Houston. The two were charged with causing malicious interference on a local repeater and with failing to identify.

SUPREME COURT ENDS KV4FZ RENEWAL SAGA

The US Supreme Court has put an end to the high-profile amateur license renewal case of Herbert Schoenbohm, KV4FZ, by denying his petition for certiorari. The petition was Schoenbohm's last avenue of legal appeal in the case, which stretches back to 1994.

Strictly speaking, Schoenbohm does not have to immediately stop transmitting on the ham bands. Legally, he may continue to operate until 12:01 AM on Monday, January 29, 2001. But Schoenbohm—who was on 160 meters during the CQ WW SSB Contest—has turned off his gear and appears disinclined to press the issue just yet.

"I haven't been on the air since Tuesday," Schoenbohm said this week from his home in the US Virgin Islands. "I would like to operate in the CQ WW CW and the ARRL contest on 160 meters, but I will need to check with the FCC to see if it is not frowned upon." The FCC Enforcement Bureau would not comment on whether or not it would prefer that Schoenbohm stay off the air.

The Supreme Court's refusal to hear his case was "as expected," Schoenbohm said. "The saga has gone on for almost eight years and was worth the fight." The Supreme Court announced its latest list of orders October 30.

Schoenbohm's license renewal troubles date back to 1994, when the FCC put his renewal application up for hearing following his 1992 felony conviction on federal fraud charges. The Commission turned down his renewal application in 1998, and the US Appeals Court upheld the FCC's decision earlier this year. Schoenbohm petitioned the high court in August to review his Appeals Court record.

The 1998 FCC Order includes a provision that authorizes Schoenbohm to continue to operate his station until the 91st day "following the release date of any order on reconsideration or the completion of judicial review, whichever is later."

Schoenbohm holds the call signs VP2VFZ, VP2MFZ, VP2EFZ, and PY1ZAI, but he may not use those call signs from US territory. This week he offered up his Virgin Islands station for use by DXpeditions and for contest operations. For now, Schoenbohm says he'll content himself with communicating with his friends via the Internet. "There is certainly less QRM," he said.

WWARA Elections

The first Saturday in December each year marks the annual election of WWARA officers and WWARA Representatives. The WWARA bylaws do not allow for representatives to be reelected to consecutive terms.

This year in addition to the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary Treasurer, representative positions 1 and 3 currently held by Ed Bruette and recently vacated by Pete Kruml will will need volunteers to run as candidates. Persons interested in position 1 should be from the King, Snohomish or Pierce county and persons interested in position 3 should be from outside King, Pierce or Snohomish county.

After the elections one of the first duties of the new Board of Directors is to appoint interested parties to chair the many WWARA committees. As previously reported, Pete Kruml N7KFJ submitted his resignation as 220 Band Chairman. Additionally Al Burelson and Rob Lee have indicated that they too will not be available next year for chairing the two meter and UHF band committees.The bottom line, If you have an interest in participating in the WWARA either by serving on the Board or as a committee chairman,please contact Membership Chairman k7cr@wolfenet.com Clay Freinwald, K7CR by email or by phone at 253 939-1414 and make your interest known!

FCC COMMENDS BAND PLANS IN ENFORCEMENT LETTER

FCC Special Counsel for Amateur Radio Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth used the occasion of an enforcement letter to commend the value of band plans. "Although band plans are not mandatory, they exist to enhance the required cooperation and sharing of frequencies in the Amateur Service," Hollingsworth said in an enforcement inquiry to a Connecticut ham.

The FCC wrote Advanced licensee Alan J. Koepke, K1JCL, on October 11, 2000, citing complaints received by the Commission alleging that Koepke was operating an uncoordinated AM-mode repeater on 144.65 MHz that was causing interference to coordinated repeaters in Massachusetts and New York using that frequency as an input.

"Evidence indicates that you have been coordinated, but not for that frequency configuration," Hollingsworth wrote. The ARRL Repeater Directory indicates that the Connecticut Spectrum Management Association coordinated the K1JCL 2-meter machine for output on 145.25 MHz and a 600-kHz negative offset input.

Hollingsworth says Koepke apparently has flipped the input and output frequencies for which his 2-meter repeater was coordinated, contrary to the prevailing band plan. In addition, Hollingsworth said, Koepke has been using a non-standard spacing that may be contrary to its coordination. He has asked Koepke to explain that and to answer other questions about the repeater's coordination and operation.

"A repeater operating contrary to coordination is an uncoordinated repeater," Hollingsworth told Koepke. Citing Section 97.205 of the rules, Hollingsworth said that where there is interference between a coordinated and an uncoordinated repeater, "the licensee of the uncoordinated repeater has the responsibility to resolve the interference."

"Band plans minimize the necessity for Commission intervention in Amateur operations and the use of Commission resources to resolve amateur interference problems," Hollingsworth wrote in expressing the FCC's position on band plans. "When such plans are not followed and harmful interference results, we expect very substantial justification to be provided, and we expect that justification to be consistent with Section 97.101."

Hollingsworth said he included the statement to reiterate where the FCC stands on the question of band plans. "You can't possibly have a rule for every circumstance," he said.

Last December the FCC dismissed an ARRL petition calling on the Commission to equate observance of voluntary band plans with "good amateur practice." The FCC said defining band plans as the ARRL had proposed "would have the effect of transforming voluntary band plans into de facto required mandates," something inconsistent with current FCC policy.

October 5, 2000 General Membership Meeting Minutes

The October 5th, General Membership Meeting was held at the Edmonds Park & rec Building, in Edmonds, WA. Vice Chairman Clay Freinwald, K7CR, called the meeting to order at 7:03pm.

Introductions were made and a sign-in sheet was circulated. In attendance were: Mark McClain- N6OBY, Ed Bruette- N7NVP, Ken Rau- K7YR, Mark McKibbin- WR7V, Nancy McKibbin- KB7BJE, Keith Carlin- N7ACW, Ralph Lucier- KA7VEE, Pete Kruml- N7KFJ, Marty Hadfield- WB7AFV, Pete Policani- K7PP, Carl Leon- N7KUW, Michael Hill- N7NFY, and Clay Freinwald- K7CR.

The minutes from the August 5, 2000, General Meeting were approved.

Current financial reports were distributed and approved. Mark McKibbin- WR7V, pointed out that the year-to-date totals for membership dues and coordination fees looked less then previous years. The Treasurer was asked to provide a summary of annual totals for comparison,

ADJACENT AREAS:

-IACC: Nothing reported for this period.

-B.C.: Nothing reported for this period.

-ORRC: Ed Bruette- N7NVP, reported that he had some email exchange with John McKay- KA0SSF, regarding the swapping of the WWARA and ORRC coordination data. John is on the ORRC Board of Directors and is aware that the ORRC approved making their data available for this year's WWARA Repeater Directory, but was surprised to hear that we have yet to receive the data.

-E. WA: Nothing reported for this period.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

-TECHNICAL- Marty Hadfield- WB7AFV, inquired about the past discussion regarding the Naneum Ridge repeater issue. The group wanted to know what the response was from Doug Rider when he was asked about a possible change of ownership of the repeater system. The Secretary will research this and report back to the group.

-6/10 Meters- Board actions: None.

Other/Pending: 53.43 (Bainbridge Is.) Bob Lewis- KC7TGA, is still in a construction phase. 52.89 (Winlock) Bob Simonson- WA7ROB, under construction. 53.07 (Redmond) Adrian Jones- KC7IYE, assignment/move.

An objection was raised by Director Mark McKibbin- WR7V, that the application for move/assignment of 53.07 was placed on the agenda without following the new Coordination Policies that were voted into place at the August meeting. It was pointed out that an agreement was reached, at the August meeting, to be in full compliance of the new policies by the December meeting. Pete Policani- K7PP moved that we continue processing new applications during the interim period. The motion was seconded and passed by membership vote.

-2 Meters- Board actions: Coordination was granted for the following; 147.20 (KO Peak) Pete Policani- K7PP, following a successful test period. Assignment of the 145.31 (Redmond) to Adrian Jones- KC7IYE.

Other/Pending: 145.15 (KO Peak) Pete Policani- K7PP. 145.76 (Federal Way) David Swartz- KD7DPL. 145.43 (Winlock) William Harwell- KC7QHJ, we are still waiting for paperwork to support the stated ownership. 14?.?? (Redmond) Kambiz Malekpour- KC7HIQ, looking for a pair. 145.39 (Everett) Don Anderson- AB7V, request for trustee change and change of location, testing as of 5/19/00. 147.16 (Mercer Island) Carter Powell- W7IAG, request for new coordination. 145.31 (South Bend) Frank Wolfe- NM7R, request for new repeater. 146.86 (Ilwaco) William Wason- KC7QOV, request for Assignment. 146.80 (Kirkland) John Schurman- AA7UJ, request for new repeater. 146.90 (Mt Constitution) Dick Morrison- K7KFM, move from Friday Harbor.

-220- Board actions: None.

Other/Pending: 224.50 (E. Tiger) Mark McClain- N6OBY, request to move from Cougar Mt. 224.16 (N. Seattle) Jerry Aceto- K6LIE, repeater is temporarily off the air pending acquisition of a new site.

-440- Board actions: Coordination was granted for the following; 441.300 (KO Peak) Pete Policani- K7PP. 441.675 (KO Peak) Shane Madsen- N7XAC.

Other/Pending: 441.850 (Mt Brynion) Carl Di Paolo- W7EXH request for new repeater. 440.775 (Seattle) Mark Sheppard- N7LYE request for new repeater for packet. 444.125 (Index) Matt Kula- KJ7HS modify existing coordination. 430.275 (Snohomish) Loren Hole- KK7M request for 1-way link, , 443.500 (Vashon Is.) Dave Olson- KL7K request for new repeater. 444.300 (Woodland) Will Pickering- KA7WJR request for new repeater. 441.825? (Shoreline) Erik Hokanson- N7UGG request for new repeater. 444.475 (Bainbridge Is.) Bob Lewis- KC7TGA request for assignment and frequency change. 441.600 (Winlock) Rob Simonson- WA7ROB request for new repeater. 443.450 (Mt Constitution) Dick Morrison- K7KFM move from Friday Harbor. 44?.??? (Skagit) Ralph Lucier request for a new repeater. 44?.??? (Skagit) Ralph Lucier request for a (2nd) new repeater.

-900/1.2- Board actions: No Board actions.

Other/Pending: 927.600 (University Place) Rob Lee- K7TGU application for new repeater.

OLD BUSINESS

-It was requested that the 2-meter Band Chair send the BCARCC a letter regarding the interference issue with 146.90

NEW BUSINESS

-NFCC- Clay Freinwald- K7CR, reported that NFCC Vice President, Nels Harvey- WA9JOB, visited last month. Also, the NFCC had a follow-up meeting with the FCC. Owen Wormser- K6LEW, advised that a more in-depth response should be forthcoming regarding the national coordination issues. A response from the FCC is expected in about a month. A new repeater coordination group has been formed on the New York area, which is being well received as it fill the void in that area not having an active coordination group.

-Mark McKibbin- WR7V, provided the following; Clay Frienwald- K7CR, was awarded the SBE (Society of Broadcast Engineers) Broadcast Engineer of the Year this past August. The WWARA Web Page has been updated, and there are a lot of new links. Mark also reported that the Log Counter shows hits from as far away as Germany, along with other countries outside the US. The "most checked" pages are New Coordinations, Expired Coordinations, and Repeater Directory. Check out the new format and information at http://www.wwara.org.

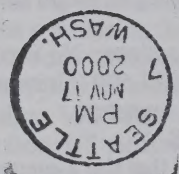
-Pete Policani- K7PP, said he still has a few 1/4 kilowatt low band repeaters left. They are free for the pick-up in the Hoquiam area. Pete can be reached at k7pp@techline.com

The next meeting will be held on Saturday, December 2nd, 2000 at 10:00am, at the Seattle Times production facility in Bothell. Annual elections for Board Positions will take place.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM

Minutes by Mark McClain- N6OBY.

NEW ADDRESS:
Western Washington Amateur Relay Association
16541 Redmond Way
PMB 243
Redmond, WA 98052



Dues paid

WOODINVILLE, WA. 98072

Meeting Notice:
The next WWARA Membership Meeting will be December 2, 2000 at 10:00 AM. See details inside.

THE WESTERN WASHINGTON AMATEUR RELAY ASSOCIATION
SERVING REPEATER OWNERS AND USERS SINCE 1976

BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 2000

POSITION	NAME	CALL	PHONE
Chairman	Jon Marcinko	WR7JM	253 566-9049
Vice Chairman	Clay Freinwald	K7CR	253 939-1414
Secretary/Treas.	Mark McClain	N6OBY	425 881-9389
Representative #1	Ed Bruette	N7NVP	360 698-0917
Representative #2	Mark McKibbin	WR7V	360 437-0718
Representative #3	Pete Kruml	N7KFJ	425 313-5877
Representative #4	Mike Hill	N7NFY	425 238-8900

STANDING COMMITTEES

Technical	Steve Mayes / Marty Hadfield	KA7PMC/WB7AFV	425 558-9525
Membership	Clay Freinwald	K7CR	253 939-1414
Coordinator Editor	Mark McKibbin	WR7V	360 437-0718
10 & 6 Meters	Ed Bruette	N7NVP	360 698-0917
2 Meters	Al Burelson	K7HW	253 857-5946
220 MHZ	Peter Kruml	N7KFJ	425 313-5877
440 MHZ	Rob Lee	K7TGU	253 564-6603
900/1200	Gene Colson	W7UVH	360 492-4313

Please feel free to contact your WWARA officials at any time for additional information about the Association. The COORDINATOR is published 6 times a year and mailed to all parties having a WWARA coordinated system as well as those whom are paid USER members. Dues are $12 per calendar year. Address all formal correspondence and requests for coordination to:

Western Washington Amateur Relay Association
16541 Redmond Way PMB 243
Redmond, WA 98052